

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02001511 Date Listed: 12/9/2002

Property Name: Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House

County: Ocean State: NJ

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

12/9/2002
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This building is nominated for its significance in architecture and religious history, but only National Register Criterion C has been checked on the form. The form is officially amended to add Criterion A to reflect the building's importance in history.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 21 East Main Street (US Route 9) not for publication.

city or town Tuckerton Borough vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Ocean code 034 zip code 08087

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Marc A. Matsil, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

Signature of certifying official/Title [Signature] Date 12/11/02

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

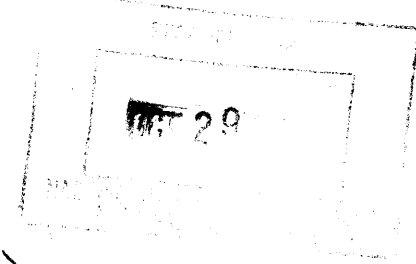
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

12/9/2002

1511



Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting Hse

Name of Property

Ocean County, New Jersey

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Friends meeting house

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Friends meeting house

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Clapboard

roof

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [x] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
[x] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
Religion

Period of Significance

ca. 1708 - 1863

Significant Dates

1863

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
[x] University: Quaker Collection, Haverford College, PA
Other

Name of repository:

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting Hse
Name of Property

Ocean County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.2

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	5565514	4383720	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine C. Lavoie, Historian
organization Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service date October 2001
street & number 1849 C. Street, NW, Room NC 300 telephone (202) 343-9609
city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20240

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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Introduction, Physical Description:

Little Egg Harbor Meeting House is a single-story, gable-front, frame, vernacular, ecclesiastical structure typical of those built in rural areas during the mid-nineteenth century. While the meeting house is so austere it nearly defies stylistic classification, its design reflects a pared-down example of the Greek Revival style. The rectangular, gable-front plan that typifies the Greek Revival church was adopted almost universally by religious denominations during the 1820s through the 1860s. A period of intense church building, spurred by westward migration and evangelical fervor, the Greek Revival church proved to be a prolific form. In more elaborate examples, the style includes a classical portico or temple front, a pronounced entablature, and corner pilasters. But as often it is found in a simplified version, substituting the portico and pilasters with a return cornice and plain corner boards. Little Egg Harbor reflects the latter type; it is a simple, vernacular wood-frame building resting on a foundation of native bog iron stone. Likewise, the meeting house differs from rural churches of other denominations in its lack of such elements as a steeple or bell tower, cross or other iconography, or superfluous ornamentation. Like most meeting houses, the Quaker tenet of simplicity precluded incorporating any of these elements in the architectural design. Its clapboarded exterior is delineated by sill and corner boards, and its windows by louvered shutters. The gable end is punctuated by a half-round window in a sunburst pattern and there is an overhanging roof line with a cornice return. The interior is almost rustic, and there is a sense that little change has taken place since its construction in 1863. The pale-yellow painted wainscoting gives it a neat appearance while reflecting the natural light that is directed inward from the over-sized windows. The pegs upon which hats and coats were hung are still mounted on the wall in the lobby. Screen doors allow for the comfort of a summer breeze, while a wood stove supplements the baseboard heating to provide warmth in cold weather.

The site, which consists of the meeting house and adjoining burying ground, is located near the intersection of the two main thoroughfares through town. Although the meeting house was eventually surrounded by commercial development, it was strategically located atop a hill which not only allowed for more healthful conditions, but over the years has served to isolate the building somewhat from the activity of the town. The site maintains a peaceful atmosphere, buffered by the burying ground and cedar trees to the north and east, and the lake (Edward Andrew's former mill pond) to the west. The site is surrounded by a fence; a dirt driveway leads from the road to the meetinghouse.

Exterior Description:

The meeting house is a single-story, rectangularly shaped, three-bay-by-two-bay frame structure that measures 37'-3" x 40'-3-1/2" and is 31' in height. The roof is gable-fronted and is covered with composition shingles applied over the original wood shakes. There is a boxed cornice with a return, and overhanging eaves. The principal entry to the center of the south end gable. It consists of double doors with a plain wooden surround with butt joints and a bead along the top of the lintel. Each door of the pair has six panels. There is a four-light transom above. At the front entryway is a large stoop made of concrete with an iron railing and steps to either side. Historic photographs show a similar stoop of wood frame construction, but without the railing across the front that exists today. Located in the gable end above the front entryway is one of the few ornamental features of the meeting house, a half-round window in a sunburst pattern. The meeting house is lit by large nine-over-nine-light sash windows. The surrounds match that

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

=====
of the front entryway, and they have louvered shutters held back by ornamental iron stays or shutter dogs. There are two windows to each of the south front, east side, and north rear elevations, the latter being somewhat smaller to accommodate the elevated facing benches along the interior wall behind them. A single window and a second entry appears at the west side. The doorway at the west elevation has the same surround (without the transom) and a single door with six lights in the upper portion and two panels below. A handicapped access ramp, made of pressure-treated wood with a plain balustrade, provides entry to the doorway towards the rear of the west side elevation. There is an interior brick chimney in the north rear gable end.

Interior Description:

The interior of the meeting house consists of a front lobby area and a large meeting room separated into two apartments by a centrally located partition (see Fig. #7). As one enters into the lobby, there is a restroom to the east side, and to the west is a boxed winder stair, providing access to the attic above and the unfinished basement below. A straight run of steep steps leads to a door beyond which the steps proceed, winding their way to the attic (see Fig. #4). The stair door has four panels, and is finished on the side facing into the lobby only. Along the north wall of the lobby between flanking doorways is a simple beaded board upon which hooks are mounted to hang coats and hats. The doorways lead, one each, into the two apartments of the meeting house. Both doorways have a plain, wide surround with butt joints over-hanging to form a slightly shouldered lintel. The doors are four panel with heavy molding around each panel. The doorways have screen doors ornamented by brackets that appear at the center rail and in each corner. In both the lobby and meeting rooms, the windows have the same plain surrounds as the doorways. The floors are of wide, unfinished wood boards. The walls have beaded match-board wainscoting above which cellulose fiber board has been applied to the plaster walls. The interior, including the walls and the woodwork, is painted pale yellow.

The salient features of the meeting house's interior include the facing benches, from which the ministers, elders and overseers presided over the meeting for worship, and the partition that divided it into two equally sized apartments in order to conduct separate, gender-specific business meetings (see Fig. #5). The facing benches run the length of the north rear wall of both apartments of the meeting space. They consist of two tiers with three rows of benches separated by the center partition, with steps to the center of each section. The fixed benches have high backs. There is a clerk's desk on the middle tier, aisle seat of each apartment. The other benches are fixed, looking towards the facing benches and arranged with an aisle down the center of each apartment. Cushions have been placed on the benches in the west apartment. The centrally located partition has fixed, match-board sections to the top and bottom with three large paneled sections to the center which can be raised up into a pocket by means of an elaborate pulley mechanism found in the attic (see Figures # 6 & 11). The ropes that operate the partition were lowered through holes in the ceiling that appear in the lobby, but they have been removed and the partition remains open.

When built, the meeting house included a central heating system in the basement. The heat emanated upward through ornamental registers located near the base of the facing benches. The original wood-burning furnace is in the basement. A hot-air gas furnace was installed alongside it in 2001, and the original registers are still being used. The new heating system is complimented by a wood stove located to the front of the facing benches in the west apartment, with a pipe feeding to the interior brick flue at the gable end wall. There is electrical lighting in the lobby area only. The meeting room is illuminated by natural light during (daytime) meeting for worship. A new restroom

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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facility, located to the east end of the lobby, was also added in 2001, as was a kitchenette in the southeast corner of the east apartment. The raised-panel door and hardware for the restroom matches that of the original interior doors to the meeting rooms and the same wainscoting was used on the new restroom wall. There is electrical lighting in the basement, lobby, restroom, and kitchenette only. The structural system and framing of the meeting house is of wood. The roof consists of king post trusses which are reinforced by braces that are mounted perpendicular to the trusses, attaching to the ridge pole. The joints are held by mortise and tenon. The roof rafters rest on purlins lying against the outside of the trusses. The roof shingles are nailed to battens, attached to the rafters. The mechanism for operating or lifting the partition that separates the meeting house into two apartments is one of the highlights of this structure. Especially when taking into consideration the fairly diminutive size of this meeting house, it is one of the most elaborate systems to be found in a Delaware Valley Friends meeting house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

As an American Friends meeting house, Little Egg Harbor represents a particular period in its evolution as a distinct building type. The significance of the form taken by the current meeting house is made more apparent when understood in the context of the previous meeting house that it replaced. Taken together, the two meeting houses at Little Egg Harbor reflect important patterns of Quaker faith and practice over the course of nearly two centuries, and tell much about the evolution of American Friends meeting house as a building type. The design of this particular form reflects the principles espoused by the Orthodox segment of their population who were more inclined to follow mainstream ecclesiastic building practices. The meeting house displays a high level of integrity and typifies the vernacular church buildings of the period. Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House is significant under criteria C as it embodies the distinct characteristics of both a local manifestation of Quaker "Plain Style" architecture, and the influences of the Greek Revival style upon rural parish-church construction during the early to mid nineteenth century.

Early Settlement & the Development of the ca. 1708 Meeting House

The Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House is significant as the historical focus one of the earliest settlements in southern New Jersey. Members of the Religious Society of Friends first established a settlement here ca. 1704; the center of community life was their meeting house. The Friends immigrated to this region, and the nearby Pennsylvania colony in particular, seeking the religious toleration promised by Pennsylvania's founder and convinced Friend, William Penn. Although Philadelphia, the seat of Penn's Colony, is recognized as the focal point in the early establishment of the Society of Friends in the Delaware Valley, Quaker settlement to this region actually began in New Jersey. The first Quaker settlement in the area that would later come under the care of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting took place in Shrewsbury, New Jersey in the 1660s, with a preparative meeting set up in 1666. The earliest settlement to the southwestern part of the state was in Salem, in 1675, which began the Quaker settlement of the Delaware valley. From these first settlements, Friends eventually made their way through southern New Jersey to settle shore communities such as Little Egg Harbor. The first yearly Meeting of Delaware Valley Friends was held in Burlington, New Jersey in 1681; the yearly meeting was not held in Philadelphia until 1683. In 1683 and 1684, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Friends each held their own yearly meeting, but in 1685 it was agreed that a "General Yearly Meeting" of Delaware Valley Friends would be held beginning the next year, alternating yearly between Burlington and Philadelphia. This occurred until 1760, when the Yearly Meeting finally settled in Philadelphia. The New Jersey Friends meetings remained, as they largely do today, under the care of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The Burlington Quarterly Meeting maintained a prominent position, with its sphere of influence extending all the way to the New Jersey shore to include Little Egg Harbor. By the time that Little Egg Harbor Meeting was recognized as an indulged meeting in 1709, the Burlington Quarter consisted of the Monthly Meetings of Burlington, and Chesterfield. This encompassed the preparative meetings of Burlington, Chesterfield, Mount Holly, (old) Springfield, Rancocas and Little Egg Harbor. Eventually, the meetings of Tuckerton (Little Egg Harbor), Mount Holly, and Upper Springfield became large enough to warrant a monthly meeting of their own, with additional preparative meetings under its care.

According to tradition, Edward Andrews was responsible for establishing a Friends Meeting at Little Egg Harbor, as

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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well as providing the lot upon which the first meeting house was erected. Andrews came to this area (along with his brother, Mordecai) from Upper Burlington County, in 1699. He established a farm and built a grist mill on the property.¹ Due largely to their influence, the town originally was referred to as "Quakertown" or "Andrews Mills." The first meetings for worship were likely held in Edward Andrews' home, perhaps as early as the same year of his settlement. Other sources range from 1702 to 1709 as the official establishment of an indulged meeting for worship at Little Egg Harbor.² In 1708, he deeded 2 acres of his property to Friends on which to erect a meeting house and to establish a burying ground. The meeting house is said to have been completed by the following year. Both an illustration and a description of the building exist that convey much information about the structure during its later years (see fig.2). The drawing, undertaken ca. 1862, shows a one-story, five-bay wide shingled wood-frame structure with a gambrel roof (see Fig. #13).³ There was a single doorway to the center of the building, flanked by two windows per side, and elevated to a position just below the roof line. A smaller, three-bay wide gable-roofed structure was appended to the side. In her 1868 publication entitled "History of Little Egg Harbor Township," Leah Blackman, describes from memory, the original meeting house:

The old meeting house was a one story edifice, built in the plainest style of architecture. There was a smaller structure attached to the west end of the principal building, where in the females transacted the business pertaining to their portion of the society. The roof of the meeting house was a hip-roof⁴, as was the fashion of that primitive age, and the four sides were covered with cedar shingles, and the inside of the house was ceiled with boards, and what they called the gallery⁵ was a raised platform; and seats for the audience were long benches with two rows of slats for backs: most of the seats had movable cushions covered with brown Holland. On the north side of the church there were large wooden shutters,⁶ which, in warm weather, were opened for the purpose of admitting air. The builders had been spairing (sic.) of glass, and there were but four windows in the church, and they were about four feet square, with nine

¹The pond that sits to the west of the meeting house today was once used as a mill pond to help to power the mill (replaced in later years by the current mill building).

²According to one reliable source, "A Friends Meeting was settled by Edward Andrews at Little Egg Harbor (now Tuckerton) in 1704." *New Jersey Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of Church Archives of New Jersey: The Religious Society of Friends*, Division of Community Service Programs, Work Projects Administration (Newark, NJ: The Historical Records Survey, 1941), 52. However, in "the manner of Friends" it is likely an informal meeting began at the time of the Andrews first settlement.

³ T. Chalkey Matlack Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. According to Matlack, the drawing was produced by J. Henry Bartlett from a photograph taken upon the request of Beulah Pharo in 1862, in anticipation of its removal. (Both individuals were members of the meeting).

⁴ Actually, the early illustration shows a gambrel, not a hipped, roof.

⁵ Term popularly used by the English (and early colonial Friends) to refer to the facing benches.

⁶ The north facade was probably the rear since most meeting houses face south, and the reference to the large shutters may be referring to carriage doors, a popular feature of eighteenth century New Jersey meeting houses. (Otherwise, the reference is to "window" openings that were not glazed.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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panes of seven by nine glass. These were the windows it contained when demolished. The first windows of the meeting house were imported from Old England, and the panes were small diamond-shaped, and the sash formed of lead. ⁷

The meeting house, "built in the plainest style of architecture," appears to have been very domestic in character, probably not unlike the early dwelling houses of the period. In fact, the meeting house greatly resembles Andrews' own house. Certain features do, however, call attention to its use as a meeting house; most notable was the unusually high placement of the windows. This was done in early meeting houses to avoid direct light and also to prevent its occupants from being distracted by events taking place outside during meeting for worship. The steeply pitched roof, typical for the period, suggests a loft space, further evidenced by the reference to the boarded ceiling. Such a space could have been used for storage, or even for other purposes such as a meeting space prior to the addition of the women's business meeting section at the west end. Also depicted was a hitching post located to the front of the building.

Little Egg Harbor Meeting was elevated in status from an indulged to a preparative meeting in 1714, set up by Chesterfield (Crosswicks) Monthly Meeting. The following year, a monthly meeting was established here under the care of the Burlington Quarterly Meeting. These events could have prompted the construction of the women's meeting section (date unknown). The rise in status and increased use of the meeting house clearly would have necessitated separate business meetings and the need for additional, formalized space. Besides Little Egg Harbor, the newly formed monthly meeting consisted of Barnegat and Beach Haven meetings.⁸

By 1844 the old meeting house was in need of repair and a committee was appointed to determine what should be done. The committee, consisting of Nathan Bartlett, Timothy Pharo, Willits Parker and Jonathan Gifford, was asked to "take a view of the meeting hous (sic.) And consider in what way it would be best to repair it and report to (the) next preparative meeting."⁹ Evidently, the small addition appended to the side of the meeting house--used by the women for their business meeting--was in the worst shape. Recorded during a meeting held on August 1st, was the possibility of making "shutters to devide (sic) the hous (sic.) instead of repairing the litle part." This implies that the Little Egg Harbor Friends were still meeting according to English program, whereby men and women met together for worship in a single space, and then separated for business, with the women retiring to another apartment. The proposed shutters would have brought the meeting house up-to-date in terms of the revised American program in which men and women met to either side of a partition that was left open for worship and closed during business meetings, rather than having the women remove themselves to the separate space. Although it was first decided to

⁷ Leah Blackman. History of Little Egg Harbor Township from its First Settlement to the Present Time (Tuckerton: The Great John Mathis Foundation, 1880, reprinted 1963), 194; quoted in Damon Tvaryanas, "The New Jersey Quaker Meeting House: A Typology and Inventory" (Master's Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1993), 171.

⁸ New Jersey Historical Records Survey Project. "Inventory of Church Archives of New Jersey: The Religious Society of Friends." Division of Community Service Programs, Work Projects Administration, Sponsored by the New Jersey State Planning Board. (Newark, NJ: The Historical Records Survey, 1941), 51-52; unpublished manuscript available on microfilm FHL.

⁹ Little Egg Harbor Preparative Meeting, Minutes, 4th day 7th month 1844.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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partition the old section, the meeting reversed their decision two months later, agreeing to "repair both parts." It is not known whether the decision indicated their reluctance to change the old ways, or was based upon matters of practicality. The old building alone may not have been sizable enough to accommodate the entire meeting. It simply may have been the desire to adequately maintain their property that motivated their decision. Nevertheless, the needed repairs, including roofing and weatherboard replacement, was accomplished by February 1845. With the needed repairs made, the meeting house remained useful for nearly two decades. It was not until March 5, 1863, that the Friends discussed "The property (properness) of building a new meeting house or repairing the old one."

The Current Meeting House

The current meeting house is thus the second on this site, replacing the antiquated structure that was erected ca. 1709 as the first meeting house of the Little Egg Harbor Friends (see figure # 1). The original meeting house bore little resemblance to the current one. It was a single-cell, shingle frame, gambrel-roofed building with an addition to accommodate separate women's business meetings. The additive quality of the old meeting house was indicative of the earliest American Friends meeting houses. Meetings generally began with a single space intended for group worship, to which a separate women's business meeting room was appended. For nearly a century, American Friends experimented with various building forms as the solution to determining the role of separate business meetings was played out. Eventually, Friends fixed upon a plan that incorporated equally sized apartments for men's and women's business, as seen in the current Little Egg Harbor Meeting House.

The decision to remove the old meeting house and erect a new one was recorded in the Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting Minutes on May 14, 1863. The building was reported to be finished at a monthly meeting held on December 10th of the same year. The extant records provide no information as to the architect or designer. But, as was indicative of Quaker practice with regard to building design and construction, the simple vernacular design of the meeting house was more than likely the combined effort of the building committee and the carpenter/builder with whom they contracted. A passage taken from the monthly meeting minutes is the only reference to the process:

The committee appointed to consider the subject of building a new meeting house reported that the time has come to proceed to build the same with which the meeting unites and appoints Archs R. Pharo, Willits Parker and Amos Ridgeway to dispose of the old house and to *build a new house as in their judgement they may deem best and suitable* and report when accomplished (italics mine).¹⁰

Therefore, the three-member building committee most likely developed the design themselves based on the needs of the meeting. As an indicated, the subject was presented before the next monthly meeting, at which time the meeting appointed a committee to "consider the subject and make a report." The committee consisted of Willits Parker, Archelaus R. Pharo, Amos Ridgeway, and Jonathan Cox. After two months of deliberation, they reported that "the time has come" to proceed with the construction of a new meeting house. The first step was the disposition of the old meeting house, which was dismantled for salvage and the proceeds from its sale applied towards the cost of erecting a new house. Salvage efforts were indicative of Quaker practice, making the best use of all their resources. As instructed, the building committee then was asked to, "build a new house as in their judgement they may deem best

¹⁰ Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting, Minutes, 5th month of 14th day 1863.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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and suitable." While, this statement infers that these individuals built the new meeting house themselves, there is no substantiating evidence. Although it was not uncommon for members with skills in the building trades to take on the construction themselves, these individuals may have simply acted as the contractor, overseeing carpenters who undertook the actual construction. The preparative minutes make no mention with regard to the design or construction process. The only further information appears in the monthly meeting minutes, on December 10, 1863 when it was recorded that, "the building (is) now finished."

The total cost, including the "heater in the cellar," was \$2,074.40, exclusive of the proceeds from the sale of the old meeting house.¹¹ A committee, consisting of Jarvis H. Bartlett, Willits Parker, Archelaus R. Pharo, Amos Ridgeway and Jonathan Cox, was appointed to determine the appropriate amount to assess each member as their subscription towards the building of the meeting house. The list of twenty-five persons (or, possibly, heads of household) includes the amount ascribed to each one, ranging from \$500 to \$5, presumably determined based on their means. The members are all from the Pharo, Price, Cox, Parker, Bartlett, Shinn, Ridgeway, Gifford, Mathis, Owing and Collins families.¹² The largest subscription came from the Clerk of the Meeting and member of the building committee, Archelaus Pharo.¹³

Little Egg Harbor within the Context of American Friends Meeting House Design

Compared with the antiquated structure that it replaced, the new meeting house at Little Egg Harbor represented a quantum leap in the evolution of American meeting house design. It marked a significant shift in both meeting program and meeting house layout. The decision in 1845 not to partition the main structure of the old meeting house, combined with the description of it recorded later, in 1868, implies that the Little Egg Harbor Friends did not adopt the revised American program accepted by most Friends by the turn of the nineteenth century. Colonial Friends originally followed the English pattern of meeting whereby the men and women met together for worship in a single room, after which time the women removed themselves to a separate space in order to conduct gender specific business meetings. The women's meeting space was often located in a separate structure appended to the meeting house—as was the case with the first meeting house at Little Egg Harbor—but might also be located on the other side of a retractable partition. Within a prescribed layout, the meeting house architecture of the early period of Friends settlement in the colonies is characterized by a fairly wide array of building forms. Beginning in the mid to late eighteenth century, however, a prototypical meeting house form began to emerge. The rectangularly shaped two-cell, *doubled* structure with dual entries for men and women become the dominant form, and remained so for nearly a century. Reflecting a significant programmatic shift, this form had evolved out of the need to provide equally size rooms in which to conduct men's and women's business meetings. Men and women now met to either side of a

¹¹ Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting, Minutes, 4th month 14, 1864; report of the committee to audit is made. An additional bill for \$18.50 was later brought forth, bring the total to \$2,092.90.

¹² Ibid., Minutes, 1st month 14th day 1864. The list includes the amount of the assessment ascribed to each, which ranges from \$500 to \$5, presumably determined by their ability to pay.

¹³ The other members of the Building Committee (and Auditing Committee) made above average contributions suggesting that the "weighty" or most influential Friends were also the most prosperous.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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partition for business *and* worship, merely lowering the partition during the business meetings. The first examples of meeting houses manifesting the new program in their architectural design and plan occurred in the 1760s.¹⁴ Over the course of many decades, other meetings followed suit. Some meetings altered their existing houses to conform to the new patterns; other waited until the time was right to build anew. Thus, this programmatic change may not have occurred at Little Egg Harbor until the new meeting house was completed in 1863.

In addition to the new plan of the building, necessitated by the shift in program, was the atypical nature of Little Egg Harbor's architectural design. The meeting house was built in 1863 to facilitate Quaker worship, although from the exterior it more closely resembles a rural parish church than the typical Friends Meeting House of the era. Its seemingly unconventional design reflects the tendency within some Quaker meetings beginning in the mid-nineteenth century to adopt elements of mainstream ecclesiastic architecture, and it is significant for this reason. It represents a pared-down, or Quaker interpretation, of the Greek Revival style rural church that was adopted almost universally by religious denominations during the 1820s through the 1860s. Little Egg Harbor Meeting House's orientation does not conform to the generally accepted plan. While the Friends meeting house of the early to mid nineteenth century typically consisted of a two-celled structure with separate men's and women's entries positioned along the length of the building, Little Egg Harbor has a single entry in the gable end with the facing bench on the opposing wall. A facing bench running the length of the building maximized oversight by the ministers, elders and overseers whom occupied them during meeting for worship. Still, the meeting house is void of ornamentation, remaining true to the Quaker tenet of simplicity. From the exterior, there is little about the meeting house that distinguishes it as a building intended for religious worship. In fact, it is not dissimilar from a town hall, school house, or other structure erected for civic purposes. And despite its orientation, the interior of Little Egg Harbor Meeting House conforms to the two-cell arrangement and is partitioned into separate apartments for men's and women's meetings for business, separated by the retractable wood partition. Various factors would eventually cause a decline in the use of this form as well, beginning in the mid to late nineteenth century. Not the least among these was the de-emphasis of the role of ministers and of separate men's and women's business meetings.¹⁵ Prior to these programmatic or internal changes, however, were external ones, both in terms of architectural preferences and societal pressures. Most relevant to Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House was the evangelical movement that enveloped the nation during this period.

Orthodox Quakerism & the Effects of Mainstream Evangelical Thought

Disputes over the reliability of biblical interpretations presented by the early Friends versus those being offered by evangelical Christians were at the heart of a major schism that erupted in 1827, creating "Hicksite" and "Orthodox" factions. The disputes brought to the fore questions of belief, authority, and practice within the Quaker religion. The search for clarification on points heretofore unquestioned was also a response to the external pressures imposed by the evangelical movement and rising industrialization facilitated by innovations in areas such as transportation and communication. Regionalism was giving way to a growing national economy; it was becoming increasingly difficult

¹⁴ For more information, see: Catherine C. Lavoie, "Buckingham Friends Meeting House" (National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS No. PA-6224, 1997).

¹⁵ These changes eliminated the need for the facing benches and the partition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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for the Quakers to live exclusive of the larger society. This was particularly true within the Orthodox segment of the population where religious thought was increasingly more aligned with that of the evangelical mainstream. For these reasons, many Orthodox Friends no longer found it desirable to maintain their seemingly-peculiar identity through distinctive dress and speech, or through isolation. Many sought interaction on a par with evangelical religious groups, citing declining membership as the basis for such action. The subsequent infusion of mainstream religious culture ultimately resulted in the stripping away of Quaker distinctiveness.¹⁶ While the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was fairly successful at thwarting the most severe effects of evangelicalism upon Friends thought and practice, a handful the meeting houses within their care became more church-like in appearance during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.¹⁷

Little Egg Harbor meeting house conforms to the new design preference for American Friends meeting houses used by that segment of the Quaker population sympathetic to more mainstream ecclesiastical beliefs and practices. It was among the first of approximately twelve meeting houses erected in the Delaware Valley to adopt a church-like plan.¹⁸

The only one of these to precede Little Egg Harbor was Longwood, the meeting house erected by the Progressive Friends in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1854. Little Egg Harbor was thus among the first to follow this trend, with most of the others being erected in the 1890s and the first decade of the early twentieth century. The motivation behind Little Egg's adoption of this design form is not discussed within the minutes. However, it is difficult to ignore the fact that the New Jersey shore was then a popular site for religious retreats and camp meetings, which included those held by "Holiness" Friends, an evangelical wing of Orthodox Quakerism. If not involved directly, the impact of revival meetings in this region was surely felt by Friends at Little Egg Harbor (although the hey-day of camp meetings post-dates the construction of Little Egg Harbor Meeting House). The only other New Jersey meeting house to adopt church-like architecture was erected in 1883 at Squan, also on the shore.

¹⁶ The basis for this argument was formed largely from information present in, Thomas D. Hamm, *The Transformation of American Quakerism, Orthodox Friends, 1800-1907* (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1988). For more information see Hamm.

¹⁷ For more information regarding the Hicksite vs. Orthodox split and the effects of evangelicalism upon Quaker thought and practice, see Germantown Friends Meeting House, HABS NO. PA-6654.

¹⁸ Identified through an architectural survey of meeting houses of the Delaware Valley conducted 1997-99 by Catherine Lavoie & Aaron Wunsch for HABS, these include Longwood (1854), Little Egg Harbor (1863), Germantown (1868), Reading (1868), Swarthmore (1879-81/1901), Squan (1883), Middletown Preparative (reconfigured as such in 1888), Horsham Orthodox (1890), Gwynedd at Norristown (1890), West Grove (1901), Sadsbury (1902), and Lansdowne (1903).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 1

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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Major Bibliographical References

Early Views:

Friends Historical Library, Meeting House Photographs Collection, Little Egg Harbor; 110/L574. Includes: First Little Egg Harbor Meeting House at Tuckerton, N.J. Pen & ink drawing (artist & date unknown); Postcard View of South front & east side; undated perspective photograph of south front.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 2

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey



Verbal Boundary Description:

The meeting house property consists of 2.151 acres and is demarcated as Lot 23, Block 13 of the Boro of Tuckerton. The meeting house sits to the center of the southern edge, approximately 53' from the boundary line. Lots 19 through 22 to the south comprises a row of non-contiguous commercial structures. Lake Pohatcong forms part of the western boundary, and there is a fence along the northern border between this lot and lots 24, 25 & 31. To the east, lots 13, 14, 17, & 18 are also commercial property and stands between the meeting house property and S. Green Street, a main thoroughfare through town (see attached plat).

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries are those of the city lot and block and define all that property that is owned by Friends of Little Egg Harbor Meeting. Commercial development borders the meeting house property to the south and east, the lake forms a natural boundary to the west, and the Friends burying ground is included within the boundaries and located to the north of the meeting house structure.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 1

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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Current Photographs:

Negatives located at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, HABS NO. NJ-1116, Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House, June 2001.

- Fig. #1- Perspective view of south front and east side elevations, Jack E. Boucher, photographer, June 2001.
- Fig. #2- Detail view of south front entryway, Jack E. Boucher, photographer, June 2001.
- Fig. #3- Perspective view of north rear elevation, Jack E. Boucher, photographer, June 2001.
- Fig. #4- Interior view of front lobby area looking west towards stairway to attic. Entry into the west meeting room is on the right side of view, Jack E. Boucher, photographer, June 2001.
- Fig. #5- General interior view of meeting rooms looking northeast from the west room through the open partitions into the mirror-image east room, Jack E. Boucher, photographer, June 2001.
- Fig. #6- Interior view in attic looking northwest to show the mechanism for lifting the partition, Jack E. Boucher, photographer, June 2001.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
Ocean County, New Jersey

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Drawings and Illustrations

Drawings:

Fig. #7- "Floor Plan, Site Plan, and Floor Grille," Irina Madalina Ienulescu, and John White, delineators. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, HABS No. NJ-1118, sheet 1 of 5, 1999.

Fig. #8- "South Elevation, East Elevation, and Section AA," Irina Madalina Ienulescu, Elaine Schweitzer, and Kelly Willard, delineators. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, HABS No. NJ-1118, sheet 2 of 5, 1999.

Fig. #9- "Door and Window Details," James McGrath, Jr., delineator. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, HABS No. NJ-1118, sheet 3 of 5, 1999.

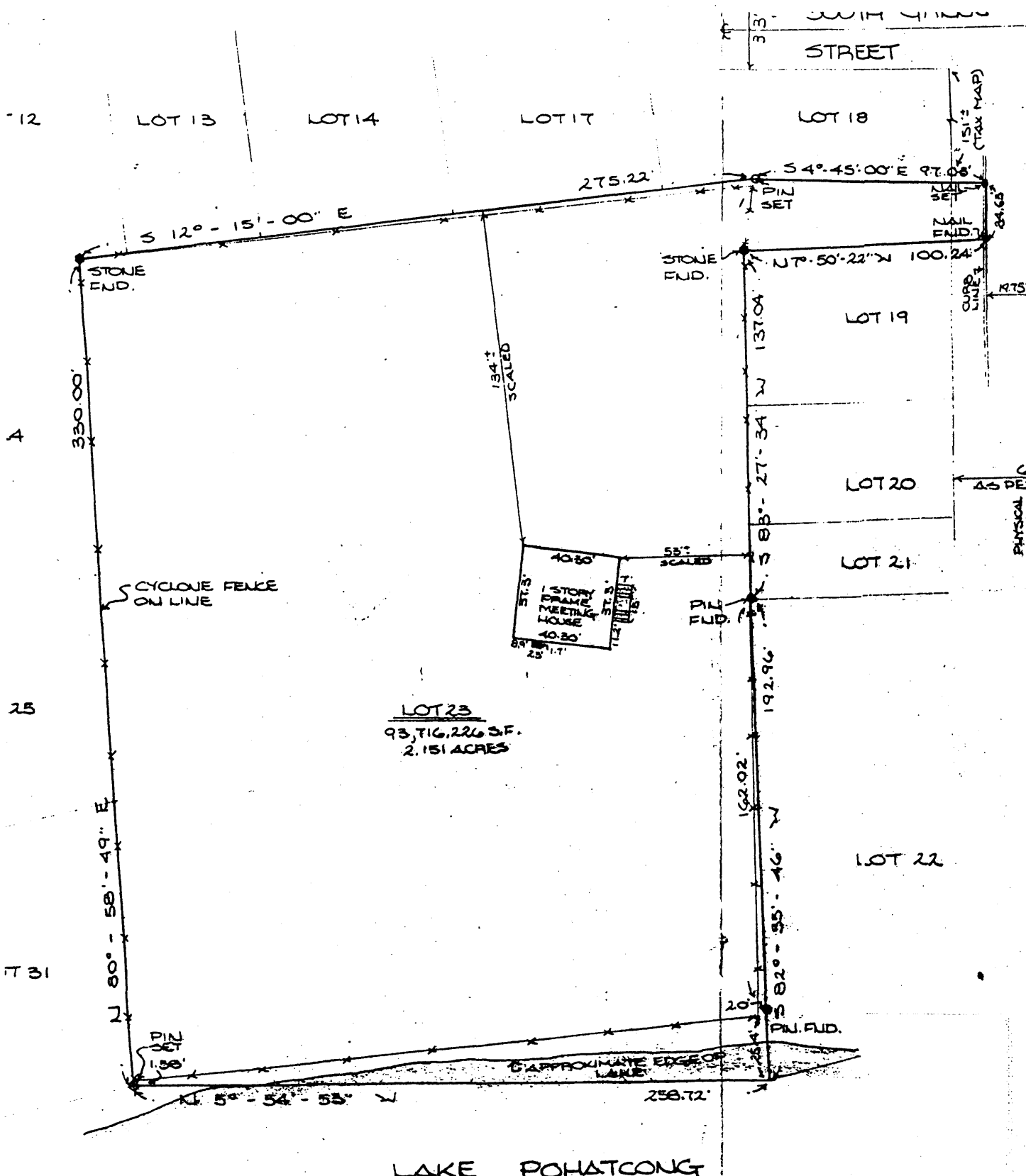
Fig. #10- "Door and Window Details," James McGrath, Jr., delineator. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, HABS No. NJ-1118, sheet 4 of 5, 1999.

Fig. #11- "Partition Lifting Device," Cleary Larkin, delineator. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, HABS No. NJ-1118, sheet 5 of 5, 1999.

Fig. #12- "Plan of Survey Located Lot 23, Block 13, Tax Map Sheet #6, Boro of Tuckerton, Ocean C., New Jersey," Nelke, Constantine & Assoc., Inc., 20 January 1988.

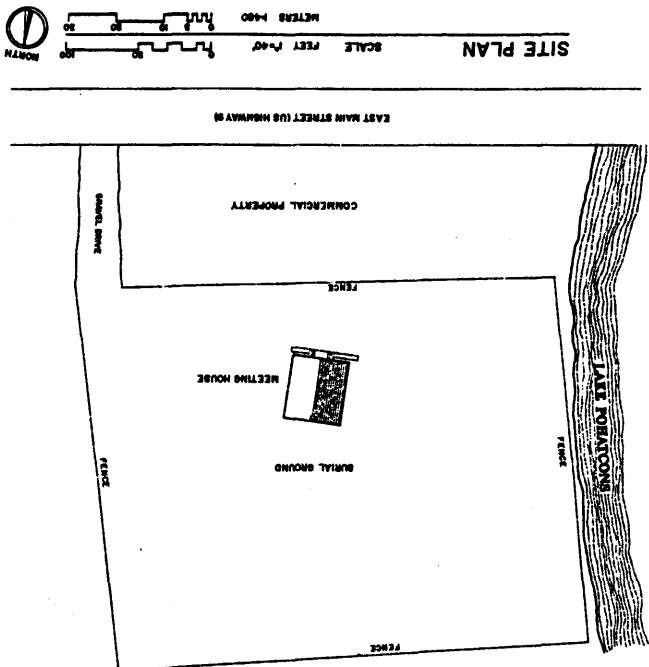
Historic Views:

Fig. #13- "First Little Egg Harbor Meeting House at Tuckerton, N.J." Pen & ink drawing, (artist & date unknown). Friends Historical Library, Meeting House Photographs Collection, Little Egg Harbor; 110/L574.

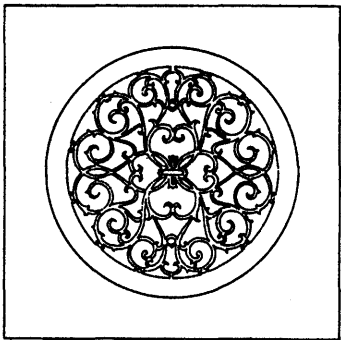


NJ & National Registers of Historic Places
Little Egg Harbor Friends Meeting House
 Tuckerton Borough Ocean Co., NJ
Site Plan

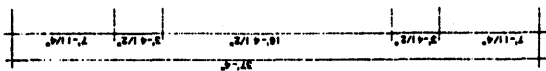
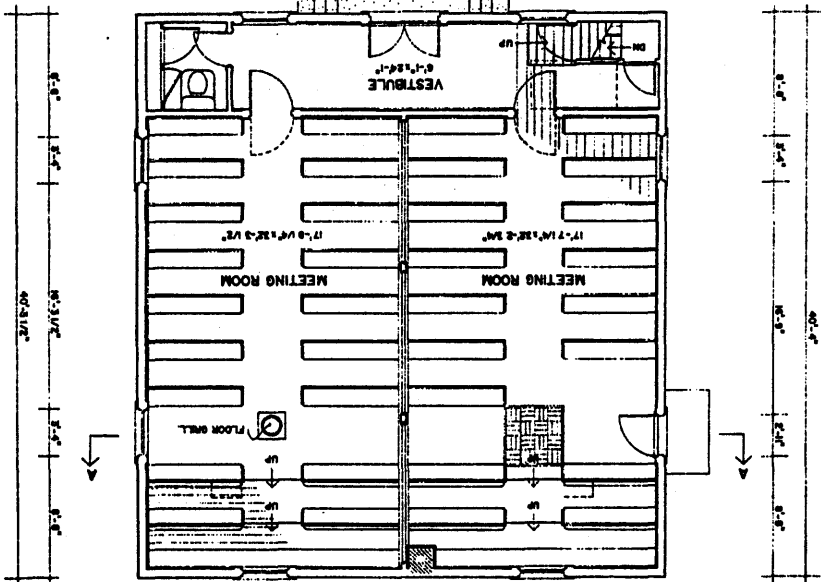
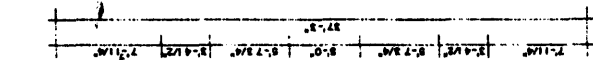
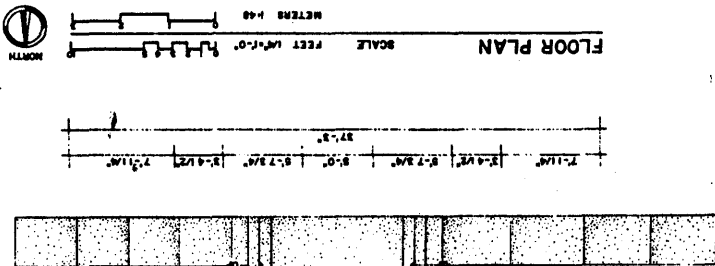
SITE PLAN
SCALE FEET 1"=40'
METERS 1:40



FLOOR GRILLE SCALE FEET 2 1/2"=1'-0"
CENTIMETERS 1:4



FLOOR PLAN
SCALE FEET 1/4"=1'-0"
METERS 1:40



DESIGNED BY: JOHN H. WILSON, ARCHITECT, 300 W. WASHINGTON ST., NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. 08901

LITTLE EGG HARBOR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
WEST MAIN & SOUTH GREEN STREETS, TUCKERTON, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

DATE: 10/10/93
DRAWING NUMBER: 10-10-93-01

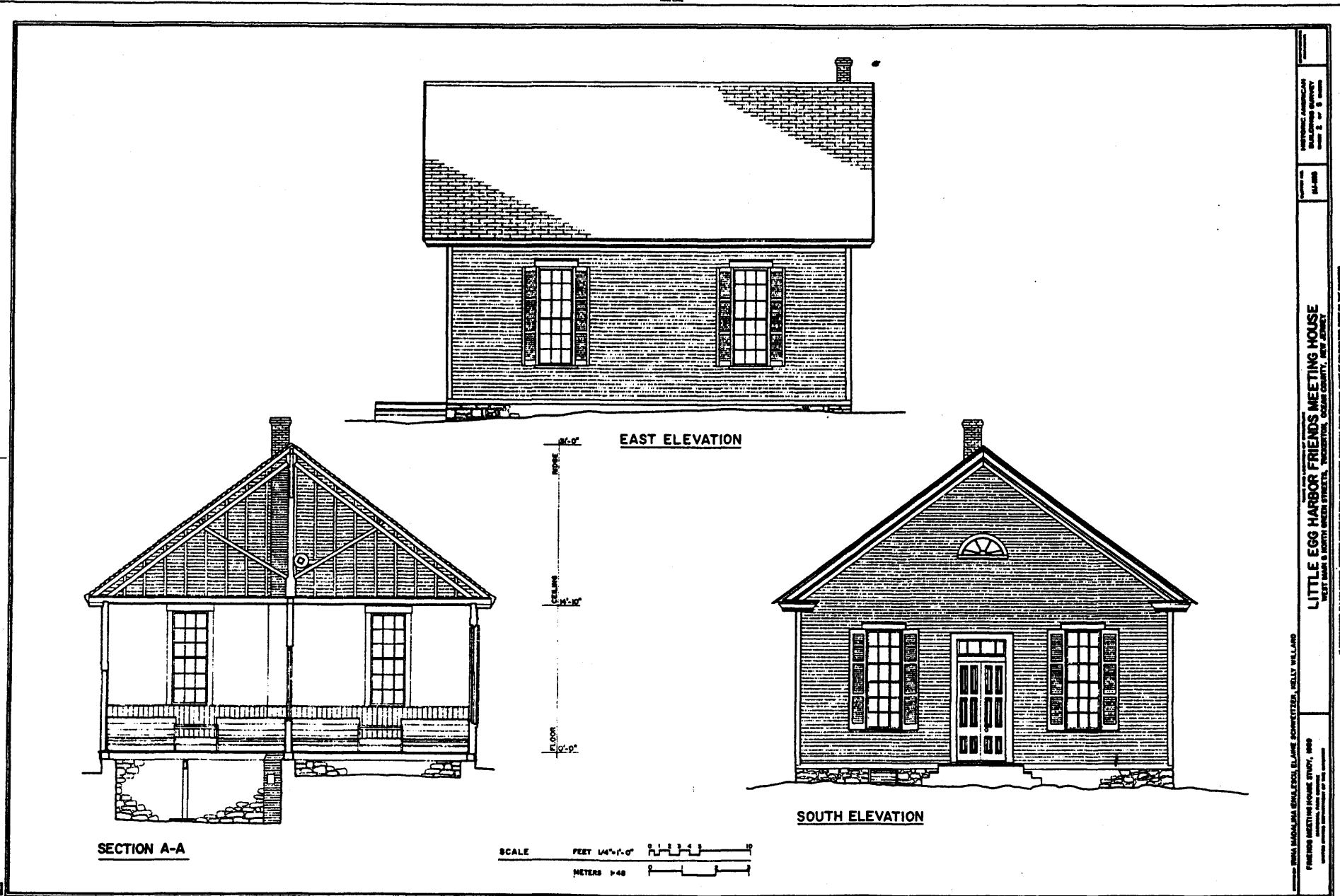


Fig. #8

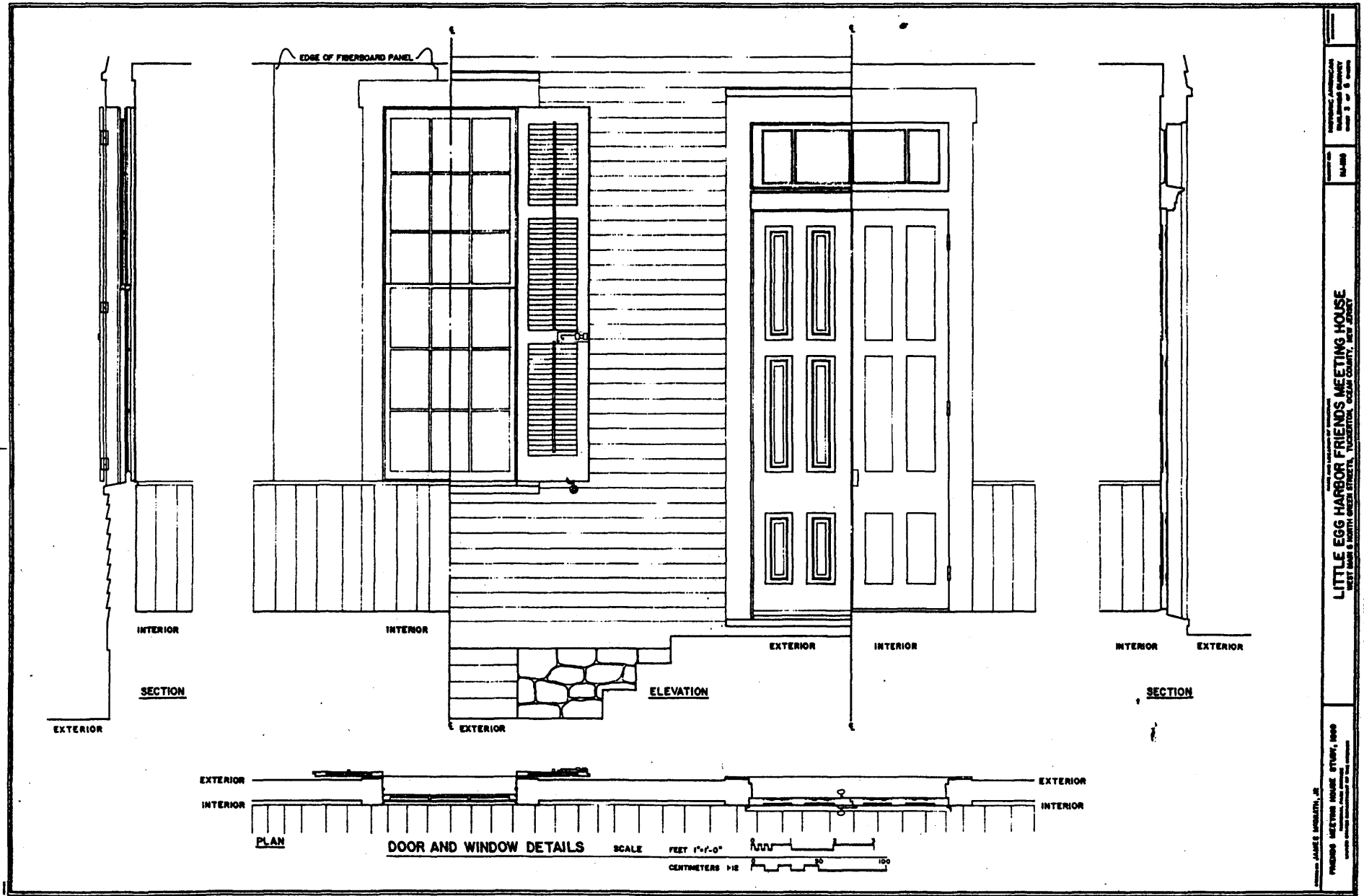
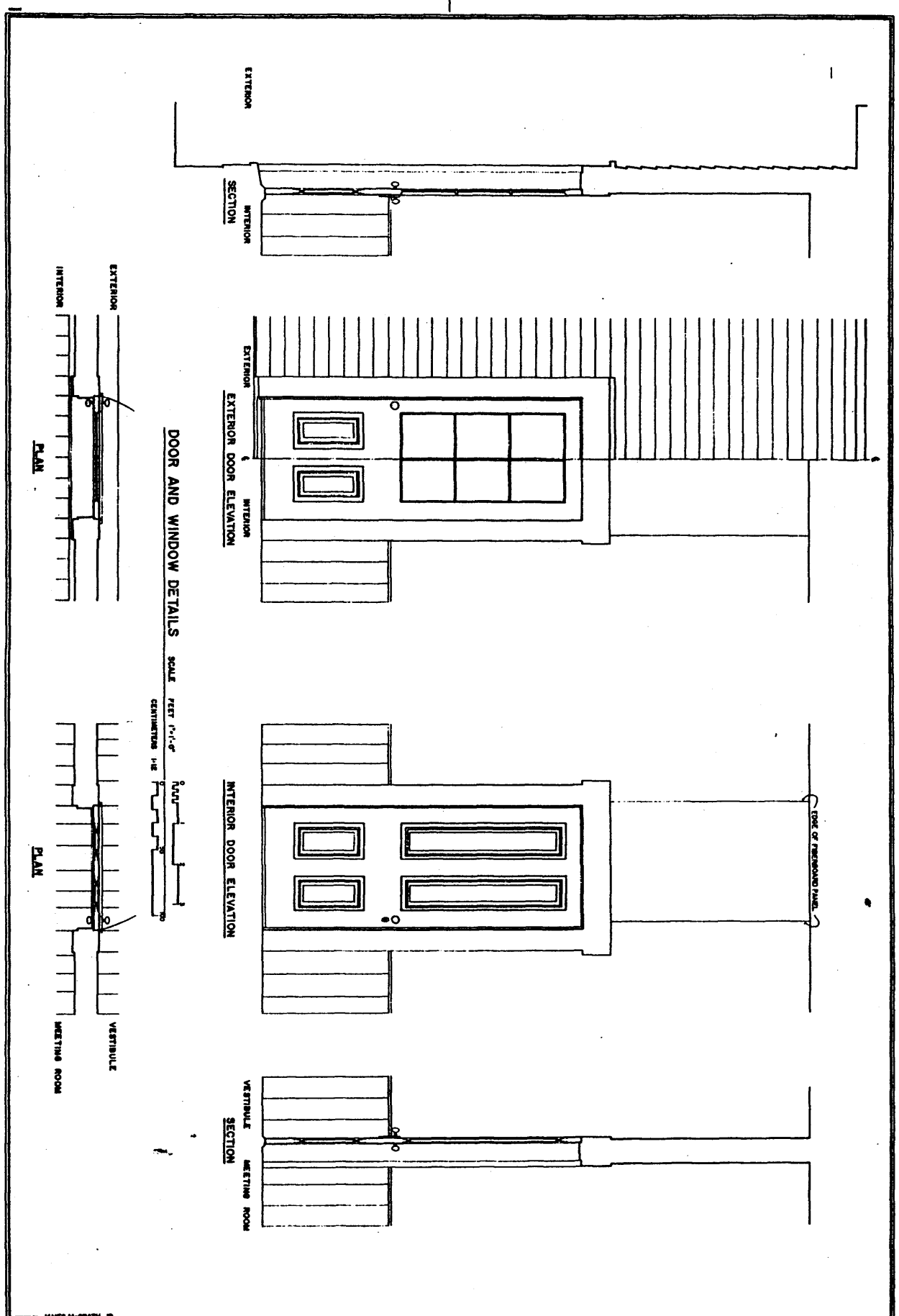


Fig. #9

FIG. #10



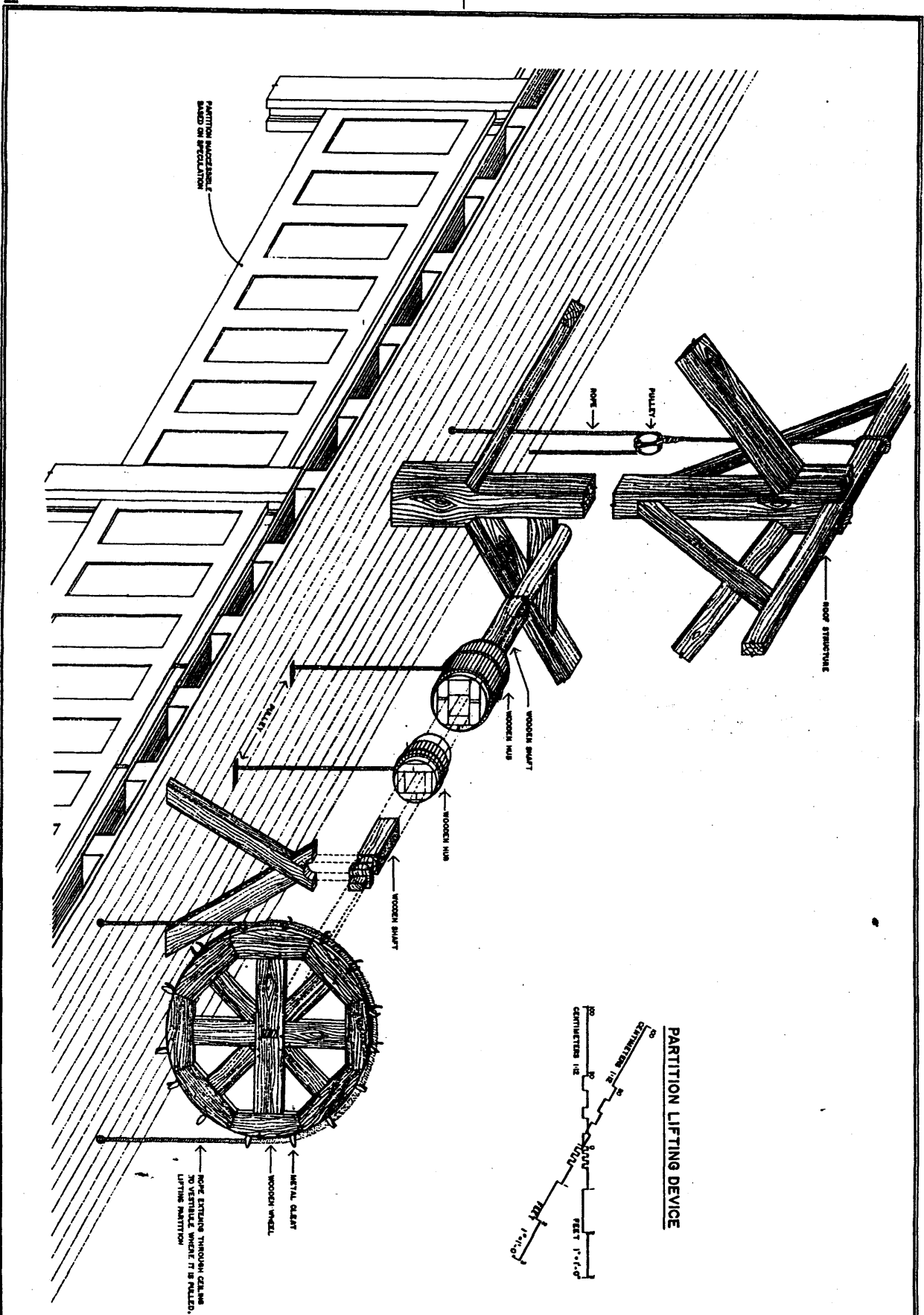
JAMES MCMATH, JR.
 FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE STUDY, 1999
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK SYSTEM

LITTLE EGG HARBOR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
 WEST MAIN & NORTH GREEN STREETS, TUCKERTON, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

DA-200
 HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 DRAWING 4 OF 5 SHEETS

IF REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK SYSTEM, OFFICE OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fig. #11



DESIGNED BY CLEARY LARKIN, ONE HANWELL
 FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE STUDY, 1999
 RESEARCH AND DESIGN
 UNDER SPECIAL PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE

LITTLE EGG HARBOR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
 WEST MAIN & NORTH GREEN STREETS, TUCKERTON, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PROJECT NO. HA-000
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 DRAWING NO. 5 OF 8 SHEETS

BY ARCHITECTURAL, PLANNING AND ENGINEERING, INC., 140 N. 10TH ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107



Little Egg Harbor 1702

Fig. #13- "First Little Egg Harbor Meeting House at Tuckerton, N.J." Pen & ink drawing (artist & date unknown, ca. 1868). Friends Historical Library, Meeting House Photographs Collection, Little Egg Harbor; 110/L574.